

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1033

By Cepicky

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Maury Baptist Association on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious organizations and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, founded on the principles of fellowship with churches of like faith and practices, Maury Baptist Association was established in 1922, focusing on a localized union of churches and congregations to implement joint missions and ministries while maintaining local church autonomies; and

WHEREAS, Maury Baptist Association has grown tremendously in the past 100 years to include more members and greater visionary responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1922, a number of churches in and around Maury County decided to withdraw from the old Ebenezer Baptist Association, primarily because of geographic considerations, and form a new association named the Maury County Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, the new association was organized with fifteen member churches: Allensville, Calvary, Columbia First, Columbia Second, Fairview, Friendship, Knob Creek, Mt. Pleasant, Rock Springs, Santa Fe, and Theta; and

WHEREAS, deciding to accept churches from neighboring counties should they desire membership, Maury County Baptist Association welcomed churches at Lawrence Grove, Centerville, Union, and Holt's Corner, adding Cross Bridges Baptist Church soon thereafter; and

WHEREAS, a total of nineteen churches with a membership of 1,526 had joined the Maury County Baptist Association by the time of its First Annual Session, which was held at Knob's Creek; and

WHEREAS, the 1930s were a difficult decade for the nation, as well as the churches of the Maury County Baptist Association, but as the decade marked by the Great Depression drew to a close, the association reported a membership of twenty-two churches and 2,324 members; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, Maury County Baptist Association voted to shorten its name to the Maury Baptist Association; in 1950, the association counted 3,486 congregants among its twenty-four member churches, thirteen of which were in Maury County; and

WHEREAS, after increasing to twenty-seven member churches by 1956, it had become apparent that the association's large geographic size was beginning to hamper the work of the missionary and various committees; as a result, the churches of Perry, Hickman, and Lewis counties withdrew from the Maury Baptist Association in 1960; and

WHEREAS, the 1970s were a time of continual progress for the Maury Baptist Association, including the building of a student center across from Columbia State Community College, the organization of Southside Baptist Church in 1971 and House of Prayer Baptist Church in 1975, the association's fiftieth anniversary in 1972, and participation in the World Mission's Conference in 1974; and

WHEREAS, the 1980s began with twenty-five member churches, adding Hampshire Baptist Church in 1982, and Maury Baptist Association saw more of its young people appointed for foreign mission service than at any other time in its history; and

WHEREAS, another decade of expansion began in the 1990s, as many of Maury Baptist Association's twenty-six member churches constructed new facilities, renovated existing ones, or acquired additional property for future growth; volunteer mission activities were undertaken in

Russia, Brazil, and Venezuela, and a Disaster Relief Ministries Committee was organized to facilitate much-needed assistance to sister-churches in the Mississippi River region of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Maury Baptist Association has continued to be a light throughout the State in the twenty-first century, as its devout members actively participate in joint missions and ministry efforts and faithfully strive to carry out God's work in the world; and

WHEREAS, the dynamic churches comprising the Maury Baptist Association are: Allensville Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Connection Church, Cross Bridges Church, Columbia First, Esperanza Church, Faith Baptist Church, Friendship Baptist Church, Grace Park, Hampshire First Baptist Church, Highland Park Baptist Church, Hillsboro Baptist Church, House of Prayer, Immanuel Baptist Church, Knob Creek Baptist Church, Mission Chapel Baptist Church, Mooresville Pike Baptist Church, Mooresville Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant First Baptist Church, New Song Baptist Church, Northside Baptist Church, Pleasant Heights Baptist Church, Primera Iglesia Hispana, Riverview Baptist Church, Rock Springs Baptist Church, Santa Fe Baptist Church, Southside Baptist Church, Spring Hill First Baptist Church, Theta Baptist Church, Thompson Station Baptist Church, and The Church at Spring Hill; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years, the Maury Baptist Association has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Maury Baptist Association on the celebration of its 100th anniversary, thank the good people of this historic association for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.